

Appl. No. : 10/663,381
Filed : September 15, 2003

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A shoulder sling for supporting a wearer's arm at desired angles of abduction and external rotation, the sling comprising:

a support pillow including a contoured medial surface for abutting the wearer's torso, and a lateral surface for operatively contacting and supporting the wearer's arm;

a pouch for receiving and at least partially enclosing the wearer's forearm; and

a plurality of straps for securing the support pillow and the pouch to the wearer;

wherein

a distance between anterior edges of the medial and lateral surfaces is substantially greater than a distance between posterior edges of the medial and lateral surfaces such that the wearer's arm is maintained in a position of external rotation.

2. (Original) The shoulder sling of Claim 1, wherein the support pillow retains the wearer's arm in a position of approximately 15° of abduction and approximately 15° of external rotation.

3. (Original) The shoulder sling of Claim 1, wherein the support pillow retains the wearer's arm in a position of approximately 15° of abduction and approximately 30° of external rotation.

4. (Original) The shoulder sling of Claim 1, wherein a first one of the straps comprises a torso strap that extends from the support pillow adjacent the anterior edge of the medial surface to the support pillow adjacent the posterior edge of the medial surface.

5. (Original) The shoulder sling of Claim 4, wherein a second one of the straps comprises a chest strap that extends from an anterior surface of the support pillow to an anterior edge of a shoulder pad.

6. (Original) The shoulder sling of Claim 5, wherein a third one of the straps comprises a back strap that extends from a posterior edge of the pouch to a posterior edge of the shoulder pad.

7. (Previously Presented) A shoulder sling for supporting a wearer's arm at desired angles of abduction and external rotation, the sling comprising:

a support pillow including a contoured medial surface for abutting the wearer's torso, and a lateral surface for operatively contacting and supporting the wearer's arm;

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a pouch for receiving and at least partially enclosing the wearer's forearm; and
a plurality of straps for securing the support pillow and the pouch to the wearer;
wherein

a distance between anterior edges of the medial and lateral surfaces is substantially greater than a distance between posterior edges of the medial and lateral surfaces, wherein a fourth one of the straps comprises an anti-rotation strap that extends from an anterior edge of the shoulder pad to the support pillow adjacent the posterior edge of the medial surface.

8. (Original) The shoulder sling of Claim 1, wherein the pouch is releasably secured to the support pillow lateral surface.

9. (Original) The shoulder sling of Claim 1, further comprising a resilient compressible member secured to an anterior surface of the support pillow.

10. (Original) A shoulder sling for supporting a wearer's arm at desired angles of abduction and external rotation, the sling comprising:

a support pillow including a lateral surface for operatively contacting and supporting the wearer's arm;

a pouch secured to the support pillow lateral surface for receiving and at least partially enclosing the wearer's forearm; and

a plurality of straps for securing the support pillow and the pouch to the wearer;
wherein

a first one of the straps comprises a chest strap that extends from an anterior surface of the support pillow to an anterior edge of a shoulder pad;

a second one of the straps comprises a back strap that extends from a posterior edge of the pouch to a posterior edge of the shoulder pad; and

a third one of the straps comprises an anti-rotation strap that extends from an anterior edge of the shoulder pad to the support pillow adjacent a medial surface thereof.

11. (Original) The shoulder sling of Claim 10, further comprising a torso strap that extends from the support pillow adjacent an anterior edge of the medial surface to the support pillow adjacent a posterior edge of the medial surface.

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12. (Original) The shoulder sling of Claim 10, further comprising a resilient compressible member secured to the anterior surface of the support pillow.

13. (Original) A shoulder sling for supporting a wearer's arm at desired angles of abduction and external rotation, the sling comprising:

a support pillow including a contoured medial surface for abutting the wearer's torso, and a lateral surface for operatively contacting and supporting the wearer's arm;

a pouch for receiving and at least partially enclosing the wearer's forearm; and

a plurality of straps for securing the support pillow and the pouch to the wearer; wherein

an upper surface of the support pillow includes a straight indicator line that provides a visual cue to the wearer so that the wearer knows when the sling is properly fitted.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) A shoulder sling for supporting a wearer's arm at desired angles of abduction and external rotation, the sling comprising:

a support pillow including a contoured medial surface for abutting the wearer's torso, and a lateral surface for operatively contacting and supporting the wearer's arm; and

a plurality of straps for securing the support pillow to the wearer; wherein

a distance between anterior edges of the medial and lateral surfaces is substantially greater than a distance between posterior edges of the medial and lateral surfaces so as to maintain the wearer's arm at the desired angle of external rotation.

16. (Previously Presented) The shoulder sling of Claim 15, further comprising a pouch for receiving and at least partially enclosing the wearer's forearm.

17. (Previously Presented) The shoulder sling of Claim 15, wherein a first one of the straps comprises a torso strap that extends from the support pillow adjacent the anterior edge of the medial surface to the support pillow adjacent the posterior edge of the medial surface.

18. (Previously Presented) The shoulder sling of Claim 15, further comprising a shoulder pad that cooperates with the straps to suspend the support pillow from the wearer's shoulder.

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19. (Previously Presented) The shoulder sling of Claim 18, wherein a second one of the straps comprises a chest strap that extends from an anterior surface of the support pillow to an anterior edge of the shoulder pad.

20. (Previously Presented) The shoulder sling of Claim 19, wherein a third one of the straps comprises a back strap that extends diagonally across the wearer's back from a posterior edge of the shoulder pad.

21. (Previously Presented) The shoulder sling of Claim 15, further comprising a resilient compressible member secured to an anterior surface of the support pillow.

22. (Previously Presented) The shoulder sling of Claim 15, wherein when the support pillow occupies a first orientation it is adapted to support the wearer's right arm, and when the support pillow is inverted from the first orientation it is adapted to support the wearer's left arm.

23. (Previously Presented) A shoulder sling adapted to support a human wearer's arm at desired angles of abduction and external rotation, the sling comprising:

a support pillow including a contoured medial surface adapted to abut the wearer's torso and a lateral surface adapted to support the wearer's forearm and configured to maintain the wearer's arm in a desired angle of external rotation when the medial surface abuts the wearer's torso and when the lateral surface supports the wearer's forearm;

a pouch adapted to cooperate with the support pillow lateral surface to at least partially enclose the wearer's forearm;

a shoulder pad adapted to rest upon the wearer's shoulder; and

a plurality of straps adapted to secure the support pillow and the pouch to the wearer; wherein

a first strap comprises a torso strap that is adapted to extend around the wearer's torso and keep the medial surface of the support pillow in abutting contact therewith;

a second strap comprises a chest strap adapted to support an anterior portion of the support pillow and suspend the anterior portion of the support pillow from an anterior edge of the shoulder pad; and

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a third strap comprises a back strap adapted to support a posterior portion of the support pillow and suspend the posterior portion of the support pillow from a posterior edge of the shoulder pad.

24. (Previously Presented) The shoulder sling of Claim 23, further comprising a resilient compressible member secured to an anterior surface of the support pillow.

25. (Previously Presented) The shoulder sling of Claim 23, wherein the torso strap further comprises a buckle adapted to quickly secure the torso strap about the wearer's torso and quickly release the torso strap from the wearer's torso.

26. (Previously Presented) The shoulder sling of Claim 13, wherein the straight indicator line is positioned to provide the visual cue to the wearer when the wearer has the pillow properly fitted and positioned so as to maintain the wearer's arm in a position of external rotation.

27. (Previously Presented) The shoulder sling of Claim 26, wherein the straight indicator line is arranged to be generally parallel to an orthogonal direction relative to the wearer's body when the sling is properly fitted so as to maintain the wearer's arm in the position of external rotation.

28. (Previously Presented) The shoulder sling of Claim 27, wherein the orthogonal direction is a medial-lateral axis of the wearer's body.